Journalism training centre opens in S’pore

SINGAPORE – Asia’s first news-training facility has opened its doors in Singapore, with the aim of giving the region’s media industry a boost.

Newsplex Asia, a tie-up between Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), is dedicated to training and research for newsrooms of the future.

The facility at NTU’s communication school, which opened on Saturday, will see students learning to produce content for multiple media platforms and how to use IT devices as journalism tools. During the school holidays, the facility will be used to train news professionals here and in the region.

Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information chair Benjamin Detenber said: “We think that by having experience working across media platforms ... working with digital technologies, images, sounds and words, they’ll be better storytellers.

“There’s a vast amount of information out there that needs to be assembled in a meaningful way and we think this will present more compelling media ... in particular for media consumers.”

Associate Professor Detenber added: “Some of the traditionalists believe that we should only focus on the fundamentals. But pretty much everyone in the news business understands that there’s a groundswell of change coming about, led by technological changes and it is important for journalists to keep up and adapt to the new media environment and be able to work across platforms”.

Newsplex Asia comes 10 years after WAN-IFRA set up its first Newsplex at the University of South Carolina in 2002. One Newsplex was set up in Germany in 2005. Another will be launched in France later this month. LEONG WAI KIT